



# **Veterans-For-Change Newsletter**

*A Voice of the Veterans*

Week Ending Sunday, June 26, 2022

Volume 13, Issue 26



## **This-N-That**

Good evening Jim,

There are a few things this week that truly irritate me. The politest way I can put it.

First as usual are our Homeless Veterans and the issue seems to always persist in very high numbers. And after having a conversation with a person on one of my business platforms, I was reminded how many still think this is a decision that the homeless Veteran has made.

Over the last decade plus, I've learned that indeed this is true, but only for a small percentage of Veterans. Mostly because they do not trust the VA Healthcare System either by knowing first hand or through others how difficult and adversarial the system truly is.

Since I and a couple dozen professionals from various organizations and agencies got together and developed a tool to use to help bring these Veteran truly HOME.

I've taken this program to three different counties here in CA and all are still using the program and still finding that it does indeed help.

We named the program HOMELESS HEROES PROGRAM and each homeless Veteran is provided a backpack that contains t-shirts, underwear, sox, toothbrush, toothpaste, bar soap, disposable razors, depending on season a small blanket or jacket, non-perishable food items and an information sheet with toll free numbers for them to call when they decide they want to come home. Or for those who are ready, we make sure they get enrolled into the VA Healthcare program, registered in temporary housing where they are at minimum provided a bed, place to talk with others or with a counselor and food.

I still stay in touch with many of these organizations and agencies as it's impossible for me to travel to each one personally and most say the success rate has been 56-84% but, it does vary season to season. But at least many people are working together to help the problem.

Suicide is another of my priority issues, and in the program mentioned above, many time we're not only able to bring them home, but save a life! Some have told us or those who are meeting them that they have often thought about it.

But the VA still needs to do a lot more, claims processed within 90-days and for mental health immediately approved then audited six month to a year after for further assessment and increase or decrease in benefits, etc., the point being we need to save more lives.

For those who may or may not have browsed our website I encourage you to do so. And if you haven't subscribed, please do so you can view thousands of other documents on the system as well as being able to comment on all the various articles. Just be sure to complete the enrollment form as much as possible, excluding address and phone number. Once you do that it notifies me you've subscribed and I can go authorize as quickly as I can.

Please do visit our website, [www.veterans-for-change.org](http://www.veterans-for-change.org) or not visited in a while, please be sure to check often for updates on documents, web links, etc., we are a bit slow, but are moving as fast as we can, yet not over-loading to put more work on our Webmaster when we get to the transition into the new look.

On behalf of our Volunteers nationwide and myself, we wish you and your family good health!

Kindest regards,

Jim Davis

Founder

[Jim.Davis@Veterans-For-Change.org](mailto:Jim.Davis@Veterans-For-Change.org)

**PS:** *If you like what we're doing, have found the newsletter and website useful, please help us keep the site, newsletter and phone/fax lines operational so we can continue to provide in my humble opinion the best there is to offer Veterans. Click here to contribute what you can, please keep in mind this cannot be used as a tax deduction, it's merely a contribution in support.*

<https://www.paypal.com/donate/?>

[hostedbuttonid=AKEGDLE563QU8](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hostedbuttonid=AKEGDLE563QU8)



## **Nurse recruiter: Don't wait, start your VA career today**

Nurse Laura Sarmiento recently appeared on "Talk About It Tuesday" to discuss the numerous opportunities for nurses at VA.

[Read More](#)



## **Former Camp Lejeune Residents**

### **You May Finally Be Able to Take Legal Action**

For years, injured Camp Lejeune residents and their families have been barred from taking legal action – but a new bill is looking to correct this injustice.

On June 16, 2022, the Senate passed the Honoring Our PACT Act, and it's expected to be signed into law by President Joe Biden as soon as this week. Attorneys are currently reviewing claims in anticipation of this historic legislation, with a view to filing claims on behalf of former residents as soon as a new fund, set aside for victims, opens up.

It's understandable that you may have questions at this time, as Camp Lejeune residents have long been deprived of the chance to sue for the harm they've suffered from the contaminated water. With this in mind, we've created a guide for former residents and their family members. This guide breaks down the latest news on the bill, how to file a claim, how to find a lawyer, what settlement amounts could look like, what conditions have been linked to the contaminated water and much more.

If you or a family member was stationed, worked or resided at

Camp Lejeune between August 1, 1953 and December 31, 1987 and developed health problems, you could soon have the opportunity to seek money from the government for medical bills, pain and suffering and other damages.

Our Camp Lejeune Water Contamination Guide also includes a form that you can fill out if you're interested in learning more about your rights. The firm handling this matter, Milberg Coleman Bryson Phillips Grossman, is a pioneer in the class action space and widely recognized as a leader in protecting the rights of individuals across the country.

If you want to speak with an attorney – or just want more information – [check out our guide today](#).

[Learn More](#)



**Military Veterans Advocacy**



Military Veterans Advocacy is offering some free memberships for those who are struggling to get their claims through, are having financial difficulties. Annual dues are \$25.00 per year. Our organization includes special sections, Blue Water Navy, Veterans of Southeast Asia, Central Pacific Islands, Veterans of Panama Canal Zone, and Okinawa. We have gift members available which can be paid by your fellow brother or sister Veterans. Gift members are kept confidential.

We are offering free lifetime memberships to widows/widowers of Veterans who died of service connected diseases? Please contact Robin Barr for more information.

Click [HERE](#) and help a Veteran.

You may contact Robin Barr at [robin.barr@mvadvocacy.org](mailto:robin.barr@mvadvocacy.org)



## **Senate Passes the PACT Act**

The newly titled Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022, known as the Honoring our PACT Act, passed the Senate with an 84–14 vote. “This is an enormous victory for veterans, service members, and their families,” said VFW National Commander Matthew “Fritz” Mihelcic. “I commend every senator who voted in favor for those who have borne the burden of toxic exposure, for the military families struggling to care for them, and for the military men and women who will face toxic exposure in the future. This was more than a vote for expanded health care and benefits. This was about honoring our promise to care for those who swore an oath to defend our nation and our way of life.” The [Senate-amended PACT Act](#) must now go back to the House for a vote before it can be sent to the president for signature. The VFW thanks all the advocates from around the country who reached out to their senators urging them to support this historic legislation.



## **NOAA predicts above normal 2022 hurricane season – Are you prepared?**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) 2022 forecast makes it the seventh straight above-average hurricane season. Are you prepared?

[Read More](#)





# Your actions

**could save a life.**

Showing you care can make a big difference to someone in crisis.

VeteransCrisisLine.net



## HASC Approves House NDAA



The House Armed Services Committee marked up and approved its version of the FY2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA-H.R.7900), which would provide a \$37 billion increase above the administration's request for defense that includes \$5.2 billion increase for military construction. None of the increased funding will go to increasing pay or benefits. Other provisions in the markup include:

- No new TRICARE fee increases;
- Prohibiting the DoD from realigning or reducing military medical end strength until additional analysis on the impacts is complete;
- Providing a 4.6 percent pay increase that keeps pace with civilian pay increases;
- Requiring DoD to brief the HASC before extending any privatized housing project;
- Requiring DoD to report on an improved calculation of BAH rates; and
- Authorizing \$53 million to provide assistance to local educational agencies with military dependent students and \$22 million to assist with students with severe disabilities.

The HASC discussed concerns about an emerging recruitment crisis but offered no solutions. The FRA is thankful that the markup has no new TRICARE fee increases, prohibits drastic cuts to military medical staff, and provides additional oversight of privatizing military housing. The association is disappointed that the committee markups in both the House and Senate did not address concurrent receipt and is working to get floor amendments filed in the House and Senate. Everyone is urged to use the [FRA Action Center](#) to ask their legislators to support these floor amendments.



## **Resources for American Indian and Alaska Natives**

Benefits.gov recognizes the needs of American Indian and American Native individuals and families vary based on unique cultures, languages, and practices. Benefits.gov can help you find information on government services to get the assistance you need.

[Read More](#)



## **Reach your full potential in the workplace with Department of Labor training, workshops**

The Department of Labor Veterans' Employment and Training Service has a new pilot program to help Veterans take control of their careers.

[Read More](#)



## **Your Top Job Corps Questions, Answered!**

Are you interested in finishing your high school education, career training, learning new skills, or finding a job? Benefits.gov is here to help you meet your goals. Benefits.gov offers information on Education and Training resources, including the Job Corps program. Job Corps is managed by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration.

[Read More](#)



## ***Links to Other Stories***

- 1) VA's caregiver review nearly complete, but still no timeline for future program changes
- 2) Your 2022 Guide to Military Benefits
- 3) Merrill's Marauders Veteran and Ranger Hall of Fame inductee dies at age 97
- 4) Nearly 60 Veterans deboard plane when one not allowed to fly
- 5) Actor Gary Sinise shares story of building home for Army Veteran, friendship with him
- 6) 'Day of Remembrance' to honor 85 Staten Islanders lost in Vietnam War
- 7) Investigations continue into deaths of 3 children at North Carolina Marine base
- 8) Advocates for homeless Vets face next big challenge: inflation
- 9) Transgender Veterans still waiting on VA's promise of surgery options
- 10) Here are the Veterans who will benefit from Congress' sweeping toxic exposure bill
- 11) Lawmakers worry VA home loans aren't keeping up with hot housing market



**VA Raises PTSD Awareness**

June is National PTSD Awareness Month, and VA is raising awareness with daily activities and five steps to help spread the word. PTSD may result from factors such as war zone deployments, training accidents, or military sexual trauma. Unsure if you have PTSD? VA has a [self-screen](#) you can take and then share the results with your health care provider. VA counseling and treatment are available through in-person visits, telemental health care, or several VA apps. [Read more.](#)



## **Supporting Students and Teachers with Benefits.gov**

Whether you are a student, parent, or teacher, Benefits.gov has information on resources to help you and your family succeed in the classroom.

[Read More](#)





## **SCOTUS Keeps Unsafe Military Housing Lawsuit in State Courts**

The U.S. Supreme Court recently rejected a bid from military housing contractors to have residents' claims of unsafe conditions be heard in federal court, allowing the allegations to proceed in Hawaii state court.

As first reported in the Jan. 14, 2022, NewsBytes, more than 9,000 military families in Hawaii have been stuck in hotels since November 2021 after jet fuel from underground storage tanks from the Red Hill Bulk Storage Facility leaked into a well that supplied water to their in-base homes.

The FY2023 Defense budget asks for \$1 billion for expenses related to the fuel-tainted water in Hawaii. The money would address the continuing needs of military families, drain the fuel storage tanks and provide more cleanup. The new "Red Hill Recovery Fund" in the fiscal 2023 budget request is in addition to the \$1 billion that Congress has already provided to deal with the effects of the fuel leak. The \$1 billion flexible funding would allow DoD to start to address the draining of the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, built in 1943, as well as address the needs of military families.

The residents of military housing on Oahu have filed a potential class-action lawsuit against their property management companies in Hawaii's First Circuit Court, alleges that the companies failed to honor their residential leases, guaranteeing their tenants potable water and habitable housing. The plaintiffs opted to sue the property management companies, which have fewer legal protections than the federal government in liability cases.



## Education and Job Training Resources for American Indian and Alaska Natives

Looking for help with education or job training? Benefits.gov can help you find information on many programs available to American Indian and Alaska Natives.

[Read More](#)



**Serving in silence: Nurse Cammermeyer and the fight for LGBTQ+ equality**

She was discharged from the Army Reserve because of her lifestyle. When she pressed back, a judge ruled in her favor and restored her rank.

[Read More](#)



## **For Sexually Transmitted Infections, Young People are at Higher Risk**

Every year, thousands of service members are diagnosed with at least one sexually transmitted infection. Topping the list of the most common are chlamydia, gonorrhea, and genital herpes, military health data shows.

[Read More](#)



**Armed Forces Voters Week**



The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) is sponsoring its biennial Armed Forces Voters Week from June 26 to July 3, with support from the Military Services, the Department of State, and other federal agencies. During this week, U.S. military installations, embassies, consulates, and overseas citizens groups offer voter registration opportunities to help Americans vote - wherever they are.

FVAP recommends military and overseas voters use the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) at [FVAP.gov](https://fvap.gov) to register to vote and request an absentee ballot by Aug. 1 to ensure they can participate in the General Election on Nov. 8. The FPCA not only allows these voters to register and request an absentee ballot in one simple step, it also guarantees certain benefits under federal law.

- Using the FPCA ensures that:
- Ballots for Service members, their families, and overseas citizens will be sent out 45 days before elections for federal office (that's September 24 for the November 8th election!).
- Voters can choose to receive their blank ballot electronically.
- Voters can use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) as a backup ballot.

"For military and their family members stationed away from home and U.S. citizens living abroad, the absentee voting process can require more time and planning," according to FVAP Acting Director Scott Wiedmann. "Many states require voters to update their registration and request an absentee ballot every year. In addition, state rules differ on how election materials can be submitted, in some cases, it's only by mail, while others accept materials electronically (email, fax, or via an online portal)."

Voters can visit [FVAP.gov](https://fvap.gov) for their state's specific voter registration and ballot request deadlines, as well as information on

completing their FPCA, which is accepted by all states and territories. Voters can use FVAP's easy online assistant at [FVAP.gov/fpca](https://fvap.gov/fpca).

The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) protects the voting rights of an estimated 3 million U.S. citizens living overseas, as well as Service members and their eligible family members. Specifically, about 75 percent of the 1.4 million active-duty military are eligible to vote absentee thanks the UOCAVA process because they are stationed away from their voting residence. For additional information, visit [FVAP.gov](https://fvap.gov), email [vote@fvap.gov](mailto:vote@fvap.gov) or call 1-800-438-VOTE (8683)/ DSN at (425) 1584 (CONUS)/(312) 425-1584 (OCONUS).



## **Tactical Diaper Bags and Other Fathers' Day Tips from a Marine Officer**

Marine Corps Capt. Joseph Tortorici, a father of six, knows a lot about being a military dad. And he's got a slate of recommendations for new fathers.

[Read More](#)





Jim, below are links to all currently active pre-written E-Mails to many pieces of legislation. We ask that you go to each one, and send the pre-written E-Mails, and to also call your Reps or Senators and ask for their support on a weekly basis!

Jim you don't need to be Active Duty or a Veteran, in fact we ask all Veteran friends to also help! (Updated 06/25/22)

Please note, we've added one new item to the **TAKE ACTION** list.

- 1) [HR 1014 - Furnish Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy \(HBOT\) to a Veteran who has a Traumatic Brain Injury \(TBI\) or Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder \(PTS\)](#)
- 2) [HR 109 will establish an advisory committee on the implementation by the DVA of an electronic health record](#)
- 3) [Concurrent Receipt Legislation Introduced](#)
- 4) [Expand Concurrent Receipt](#)
- 5) [H.R. 333, Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act](#)
- 6) [H.R. 344, Support the Women Veterans TRUST Act](#)
- 7) [H.R. 914, the Dental Care for Veterans Act](#)
- 8) [Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act](#)
- 9) [S. 134/H.R. 637, the Veterans Economic Recovery Act of 2021](#)
- 10) [S. 437, Take Action for Veterans Exposed to Burn Pits](#)
- 11) [S. 89, Ensuring Survivors Benefits during COVID-19 Act of 2021](#)
- 12) [STOP TRICARE Fee Increases](#)
- 13) [Support Bills to Expand Coverage for ChampVA and](#)

## TRICARE Young Adults

- 14) Veterans Economic Recovery Act Introduced
- 15) H.R. 855, the Veterans Expedited TSA Screening (VETS) Safe Travel Act
- 16) HR 1355 and S 454. These companion bills will provide health care and benefits to Veterans who were exposed to toxic substances while serving as members of the Armed Forces at Karshi Khanabad Air Base, Uzbekistan.
- 17) Support Repeal of TRICARE Select Enrollment Fee
- 18) HR 1585 & S 565- Provide for the treatment of Vets who participated in the cleanup of Enewetak Atoll as Radiation Exposed
- 19) Please Support S. 344, the Major Richard Star Act
- 20) Support the Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act
- 21) S. 810 & H.R. 1972, the Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act of 2021
- 22) HR 109 Establish an Advisory Committee on Implementation by the DVA of an electronic health record
- 23) HR 2372 and S 952 will Provide for Presumption of Service Connection for certain diseases associated with exposure to toxins
- 24) Please Ask you Senator to support S.952 the Warfighters Act
- 25) Support Improving VA Homelessness Program
- 26) S. 976, Caring for Survivors Act of 2021
- 27) H.R. 303, the Retired Pay Restoration Act
- 28) H.R. 912, American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans Mental Health Act
- 29) S. 976, the Caring for Survivors Act of 2021
- 30) HR 2269 and S 657 cover herbicide exposure in Thailand
- 31) Bipartisan Bill Introduced to Help Military Survivors
- 32) Legislation asks for Study of Involuntary Discharges for Women
- 33) H.R. 2436, the Veterans Burn Pit Exposure Recognition Act
- 34) H.R. 958—the Protecting Moms Who Served Act

- 35) HR 2127 and S 927, the TEAM bills Veterans Exposed to Toxic Substances
- 36) Ask your Senator to Support S.1520 Military Justice Improvement Act
- 37) Ask your member to support S.810 and H.R. 1972 The Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act of 2021
- 38) Ask your member and senator to support HR 2580 and S 1151 to provide for a presumption of service connected disability for certain Veterans who served in Palomares, Spain, and for other purposes
- 39) Ask your Senator to Support S.1520 Military Justice Improvement Act
- 40) HR 855, VETS Safe Travel Act
- 41) HR 3368, the Guam, American Samoa, and Johnston Island bill
- 42) H.R. 2521, Delivering Optimally Urgent Labor Access (DOULA) for Veterans Affairs Act of 2021
- 43) H.R. 1273, the Vietnam Veterans Liver Fluke Cancer Study Act
- 44) H.R. 2968, the Military and Veteran Student Loan Relief Act
- 45) H.R. 845, the VA Billing Accountability Act
- 46) Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Bill Introduced in House
- 47) HR 303 and S 1147 The Retired Pay Restoration Act
- 48) Ask Your Legislators to Support Concurrent Receipt Reform HR-1282
- 49) HR 1656 TREAT PTSD Act
- 50) S. 1664, the Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Processing Claims Improvement
- 51) Please Support H.R. 3452 —Veterans Preventative Health Coverage Fairness Act
- 52) HR 2192, The Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2021
- 53) HR 5026, The Panama Canal Zone Veterans Act of 2021
- 54) HR 3368, HR 5026, HR 2269, S 657 are all Toxic Exposure Bills that need special attention and more pressure to get passed!
- 55) H.R. 4627, Veterans' Culturally Competent Care Act of 2021

- 56) S. 2172, Building Solutions for Veterans Experiencing Homelessness
- 57) H.R. 4571, the SERVICE Act of 2021
- 58) H.R. 4732, Protect Individual Unemployability Benefit for All Disabled
- 59) S. 1937, the Delivering Optimally Urgent Labor Access (DOULA) for Veterans Act of 2021
- 60) S. 2283 and H.R. 5073—the Crisis Hotline REACH for Veterans Act
- 61) HR 852 and S 221, United States - Israel PTSD Collaborative Research Act
- 62) Ask Congress to Preserve Arlington National Cemetery
- 63) HR 4949 and S 692, the Hello Girls Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2021
- 64) HR 2963, the VOW to Hire Heroes Extension Act of 2021
- 65) S 1970, The Clean Water for Military Families Act
- 66) Support S. 1198/H.R. 2819—the Solid Start Act of 2021
- 67) H.R. 3402/S. 976—Caring for Survivors Act of 2021
- 68) HR 3537 and S 1813, Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies for ALS Act
- 69) S. 2386/H.R. 4575, the Veteran Peer Specialist Act
- 70) H.R. 5721—the VIPER Act
- 71) H.R. 5607, Justice for ALS Veterans Act
- 72) HR 2601 and S 1188, SFC Heath Robinson Burn Pit Transparency Act
- 73) S. 3017, Veterans Dental Care Eligibility Expansion and Enhancement Act
- 74) HR 1361 and S 444, AUTO for Veterans Act
- 75) H.R. 4880 and S. 2720, the Veterans' Prostate Cancer Treatment and Research Act
- 76) HR 2800, the WINGMAN Act
- 77) H.R. 5944, Veterans Administration Backlog Accountability Act of 2021
- 78) HR 3400, VA Emergency Transportation Act

- 79) HR 2992, TBI and PTSD Law Enforcement Training Act
- 80) HR 6260, the Casualty Assistance Reform Act of 2021
- 81) H.R. 5819, Autonomy for Disabled Veterans Act
- 82) HR 3596, the Lawrence J. Hackett, Jr. Vietnam Veterans Agent Orange Fairness Act
- 83) H.R. 2327 – to Remove Delimiting Dates for Survivors and Dependents' Educational Assistance
- 84) S. 2513/H.R. 4772, Improved VA Clothing Allowance Benefit for Disabled Veterans
- 85) S. 3293, the Post 9-11 Veterans Mental Health Care Act of 2021
- 86) HR 6402 and S 1725, will grant a Federal charter to the National American Indian Veterans, Incorporated
- 87) HR 6659 and S 3541, the Health Care for Burn Pit Veterans Acts
- 88) Ask your member to support S.810 and H.R. 1972 the Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act of 2021
- 89) H.R. 6543, Restore Veterans Compensation Act
- 90) H.R. 3967, Honoring Our PACT Act Going to House Floor for a Vote
- 91) H.R. 2916/S. 1467, the VA Medicinal Cannabis Research Act of 2021
- 92) S. 3483, Justice for ALS Veterans Act
- 93) H.R. 6273 and S.3397, the VA Zero Suicide Demonstration Project Act of 2021
- 94) HR 7050, Ernest Peltz Accrued Veterans Benefits Act
- 95) S. 3851/H.R. 7089, the Veterans Exposed to Toxic PFAS Act
- 96) S. 3854/H.R. 6823, the Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act
- 97) HR 4601 and S 2405, Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach Act
- 98) S. 3304/H.R. 5754, the Patient Advocate Tracker Act
- 99) Please Support H.R. 7369, VENTURE Act
- 100) Please support of HR 7524, the ACES Act
- 101) HR 7589, Remove Copays Act
- 102) Support Concurrent Receipt Bills

- 103) [S. 3025 and H.R. 5666, the Servicemembers and Veterans Empowerment and Support Act of 2021 to Improve the Claims Process for MST Survivors](#)
- 104) [Support S. 4156, the VA Workforce Improvement, Support, and Expansion \(WISE\)](#)
- 105) [Making Advances in Mammography and Medical Options \(MAMMO\) for Veterans](#)
- 106) [They must pass the Honoring our PACT Act NOW](#)
- 107) [HR 7048, Protect Lifesaving Anesthesia Care for Veterans Act of 2022](#)
- 108) [HR 1476, PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Peer Support Program Act](#)



## **Mobile apps giving Veterans more control over their health**

An Army Veteran talks about the value he gets from a third-party mobile application that connects directly to his VA.gov profile.

[Read More](#)



## **Continuous Glucose Monitors Now Available as a TRICARE Pharmacy Benefit**

If you use a continuous glucose monitor, you're in luck. TRICARE Pharmacy Program now covers two brands of CGMs.

[Read More](#)





## **Dublin VAMC hosts successful career fair**

Several hundred people showed up at the Dublin VAMC career fair, hoping to serve America's Veterans. All who applied received an interview.

[Read More](#)

**Protecting Your Hearing and Vision is a Personal  
Readiness Mission**

Hearing and vision are important to everyone, including active duty service members. They must be alert at all times to their surroundings and potential dangers.

[Read More](#)



## **VA provides hope to Navy Veteran David Burris, who was facing homelessness**

Navy Veteran used benefits of VA's Grant and Per Diem Program which funds agencies providing services to Veterans experiencing homelessness.

[Read More](#)



## **Dr. Jonathan Woodson Tapped to Lead Uniformed Services University**

Dr. Jonathan Woodson, a vascular surgeon and former Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, will lead the nation's only federal health sciences university – the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences – as its new president.

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**Our values  
match yours.**



[www.veterans-for-change.org](http://www.veterans-for-change.org)

*CLICK HERE TO FOLLOW US ON TWITTER !*



## **For Mom's with small Children Needing Baby Formula**

We know the situation with being able to purchase baby formula has been a nightmare and doesn't look like it will be getting any better anytime soon.

So, I took time this week to not only call my personal physician, but several pediatricians to find what homemade formula would be the best to use as a replacement during this time of crisis.

Below is the formula I found, and presented to all doctors I spoke with (totaling 11) and each one approved this version over many others.

I do hope this helps all mom's during this time!

### **Homemade Emergency Baby Formula Recipe**

This recipe, based on World Health Organization guidelines and physician studies through the early twentieth century, is an excellent stop-gap option for when your baby is hungry and you have no other feeding options. It is meant for short-term use only.

## Equipment

1 quart-sized canning jar with a tight-fitting lid OR a blender

Ingredients

## FOR THE FORMULA:

- 1 13-ounce can (354 mL) full-fat evaporated milk
- 2  $\frac{1}{3}$  cups (19 fluid ounces // 562 mL) clean water, preferably slightly warm
- 2 tablespoons blackstrap molasses

## TO GIVE SEPARATELY AS A NUTRITIONAL SUPPLEMENT:

- 1 dose multi-vitamin for infants, given daily (follow the dosage instructions on the multivitamin bottle)

Instructions

## Instructions

**Mix the formula.** Place all ingredients in a clean, quart-sized jar with a tight-fitting lid or in a blender. Shake or blend until well-mixed. (If you're using granulated sugar, be sure to mix until it has been dissolved.)

**Feed the baby.** Pour into clean bottles and give to baby immediately or store in the refrigerator for up to three days. Discard any unused formula after three days.

**Give a multivitamin supplement,** if available. Give one dose of multivitamin to your baby at least once a day.

## How many batches of formula do I need?

1 batch will likely last you approximately 1 day, give or take a few hours.

Follow your child's hunger cues – these values are simply average guidelines.

- 0-2 months: 2-3 ounces every 2-3 hours (approximately 24 oz per day)
- 2-3 months: 4-5 ounces every 3-4 hours (approximately 32 oz per day)
- 4-5 months: 4-6 ounces every 3-4 hours (approximately 32-36 oz per day)
- 6+ months: 6-8 ounces every 4-5 times a day (approximately 32-40 oz per day)

If you have multivitamin drops, give them separately from the formula to make sure your child gets the entire dose.

### **Why is there sugar in this recipe?**

Sugar is used to bring the evaporated milk up closer to the level of natural sugars in human breast milk. We're calling for blackstrap molasses as the sugar because it also contains iron, sodium, and potassium.

### **What can I use instead of molasses?**

If you do not have blackstrap molasses, you may substitute an equal amount of brown sugar, granulated sugar, dark corn syrup (preferably GMO-free) OR maple syrup.

**DO NOT USE** sweetened condensed milk, as it contains FAR too much sugar.

**DO NOT USE HONEY** as a sugar substitute if your baby is under 12 months old.



## **Veterans and Community Oversight and Engagement Board**

VA is seeking candidates for the Veterans and Community Oversight and Engagement Board. What is this and why is it important?

[Read More](#)



## **Chlamydia is the Military's Most Common Sexually Transmitted Infection**

Cases of chlamydia – commonly known as "the clam" – are increasing both in the military and throughout the U.S.

[Read More](#)



**CONTACT YOUR  
MEMBERS OF CONGRESS!**

**To Call your Representative:**

**202-225-2305**

**To Call your Senators:**

**202-224-3841 or 202-224-3553**

**To call Different Members of Congress:**

**202-224-3121**

**TOLL FREE: 866-272-6622**

**PLEASE... STOP Making Excuses!**

**[www.veterans-for-change.org](http://www.veterans-for-change.org)**



**Veteran disability payments led to fewer  
hospitalizations**

In 2001, VA made diabetes a presumptive condition for disability compensation. Veterans who served with "boots on the ground" in Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos during the Vietnam war were eligible. The decision was based on an Institute of Medicine report that found a possible association between exposure to Agent Orange and diabetes.

[Read More](#)



**How MHS GENESIS will Become Essential to  
Patients' Health Journeys**

Augmenting peer training with clinical informatics maximizes providers' ability to learn best practices for using MHS GENESIS and pass them on to patients.

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## **Give Veterans the comforts of home with Home Based Primary Care (HBPC)**

As VA looks to expand resources for aging Veterans, Home Based Primary Care (HBPC) careers offer opportunities to serve Veterans where they live.

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## **Have TRICARE Prime? Point-of-Service Option May Offer Some Flexibility**

There's another way to seek care from a specialist without a referral. It's called the point-of-service option.

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## **Office of Inspector General**

1) [COVID-19: Pandemic Lessons Highlight Need for Public Health  
Situational Awareness Network](#)



## **Provider webinar: LGBTQ+ Veteran Health Care – June 23**

This article discusses upcoming webinar June 23, 2022, that will discuss the unique health needs of LGBTQ+ Veterans.

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## **Plan Your Float: Boating Safety Tips from the Coast Guard**

For those operating boats - whether you're new to boating or experienced, out on the ocean, in lakes, or on rivers - there are some basic safety tips to keep in mind.

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- 1) Medtronic Recalls HeartWare HVAD System Batteries Due to Battery Failure
- 2) Baxter Healthcare Corporation Recalls Volara System For Risk Of Respiratory Distress In Ventilated Patients During Home Use
- 3) BD Announces Voluntary Recall on Intraosseous Products
- 4) Vi-Jon, LLC Issues Voluntary Nationwide Recall of CVS Magnesium Citrate Saline Laxative Oral Solution Lemon Flavor Due to Microbial Contamination
- 5) FDA Releases Action Plan for Rare Neurodegenerative Diseases, Including ALS
- 6) Outbreak Investigation of Hepatitis A Virus: Strawberries (May 2022)
- 7) FDA Denies Authorization to Market JUUL Products
- 8) FDA Drug Shortages
- 9) FDA Infant Formula Update: June 22, 2022
- 10) FDA Provides Update on Efforts to Increase Supply and Availability of Safe and Nutritious Infant Formula
- 11) Pulse Oximeter Accuracy and Limitations: FDA Safety Communication
- 12) Draeger, Inc Recalls SafeStar 55 Breathing System Filters for Possible Obstructions That May Block Oxygen Flow to Patients
- 13) FDA Announces Plans for Proposed Rule to Reduce Addictiveness of Cigarettes and Other Combusted Tobacco Products
- 14) FDA Roundup: June 21, 2022
- 15) FDA Infant Formula Update: June 17, 2022



**G.I. Bill® 78th Anniversary – Paving the way for generations to come**

Today is the 78th anniversary of the G.I. Bill, which was established on June 22, 1944, to provide benefits in support of returning World War II service members.

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## **Left Behind War Generation**

Not all Navy and Marine Veterans serving in the Vietnam War on Aircraft Carriers are included in either the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 or the most recent Senate version of the PACT Act of 2022. ALL Aircraft Carriers serving in the Vietnam War operated in the Theater of Operations or “War Zone.” And only some Aircraft Carriers operated within the man-made arbitrary 12-mile Territorial Sea designated area required by the Act of 2019/Public Law 116-23.

This is an important distinction in the current Public Law 116-23 because the Law fails to recognize that Navy and Marine Vietnam Veterans on Aircraft Carriers are sick and dying due to complications of the same toxic wounds from diseases identified by the Veterans Administration on the presumptive disability list due to exposure to toxic dioxin herbicides caused by Agent Orange. Both groups operated primarily in the Theater of Operations because the standard operating parameters for Aircraft Carriers required them to operate on the open seas outside the Territorial Sea man-made limit line contained in the Act of 2019 and subsequent Public Law.

Vietnam Veterans on Aircraft Carriers received all the “military benefits” of serving in the Theater of Operations/War Zone, including qualifying for the award of the Vietnam Service Medal.

Both groups were at risk of enemy fire and could have been legally killed because they were at War and in the specified War Zone. All Aircraft Carriers received supplies from mainland Vietnam via Carrier On Delivery (COD) aircraft transporting mail, supplies, replacement parts, personnel, etc. (see COD Assessment by Dr Wayne Dwernychuk). In addition, all Aircraft Carriers drank, bathed and prepared food in the same contaminated sea water.

The Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) and the Disabled Veterans of America (DAV) support 100% a simple wording change to extend presumptive disability benefits to all Vietnam Veterans that served in the Theater of Operations/War Zone of the Vietnam War. Congressman Mike Thompson on a recent Zoom call supported the wording change and currently has his staff researching other Veteran Service Organizations that would also support this change.

The wording change in the PACT Act that both National Organizations support is; Section 403; Delete wording "Republic of Vietnam", and Insert wording "Theater of Operations." This simple change provides justice and disability benefits to ALL who served.

Mark Wheeler, USS Intrepid, 1968 [markwheeler2021@gmail.com](mailto:markwheeler2021@gmail.com)  
(707) 321-9531

**(NOTE:** If you'd like copies of the PDF documents, E-Mail:  
[Jim.Davis@Veterans-For-Change](mailto:Jim.Davis@Veterans-For-Change)





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## **Explore employment opportunities for disabled Veterans**

Ability Links works to increase employment for disabled Veterans through a free online job board and other resources.

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**Vietnam Veterans Aboard Aircraft Carriers List of Vietnam Veterans reporting diagnosis due to Agent Orange as reported to Mark Wheeler 2019-2022 via emails**

Roger Moline, March 2020. Died from complications due to Agent Orange. Served on USS Intrepid, shipmate and personal friend.

Frank Preston Baker, Fall 2012. Died from complications due to Agent Orange. Served on USS Intrepid, shipmate and personal friend.

Mark Wheeler, USS Intrepid, 1968. Diagnosed in 2011 for complications due to Agent Orange. VA denied twice, currently active Appeal with Veterans Law Judge.

Gerald Feola, USS Intrepid, 1967. Diagnosed Oct 2018, filed claim in 2021 for complications due to Agent Orange exposure. Currently in treatment.

Steve Hardemon, August 2019 filed VA claim for complications due to Agent Orange. Served on USS Intrepid.

David John Banks, USN ETR3. Died from complications due to Agent Orange. Served on USS Intrepid. Reported by his Brother Richard Banks.

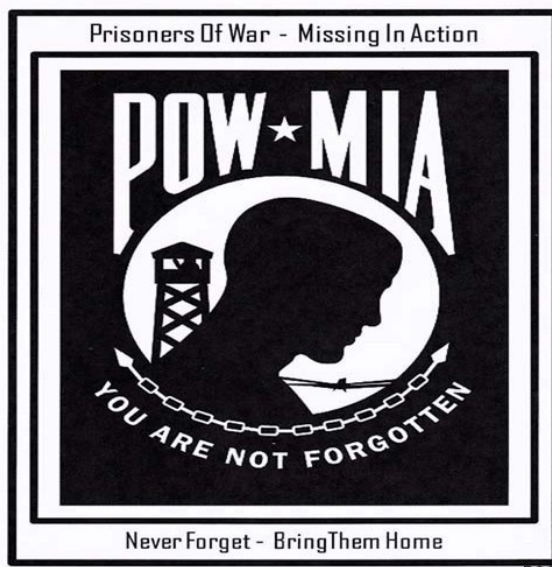
Skip Annette, (508) 214-0124. Served on USS Intrepid 1965 - 1967. Filed claim for complications due to Agent Orange.

Dan Bank, AO2 Served on USS Intrepid, 1966-1970. Died after filing a claim for complications due to Agent Orange. Reported by Cindy Blank, wife/widow. Wife reopened claim in 2020 in hopes of obtaining survivor benefits.

Geoff Gaertner, Torpedoman's Mate, Aircraft Carrier, 1965-1968. Died 2018 from complications due to Agent Orange







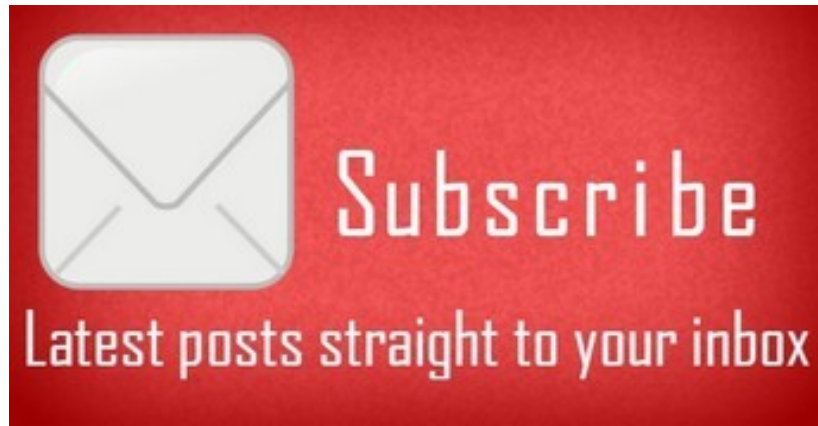
## **Columbia VA's special "I Care 4 Her" program**

"I Care 4 Her" initiative helps educate providers about women Veterans. Comfort level of providers with female patients has increased.

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## **#VADidThat: TeleOncology, Veterans and cancer care**

VA's National TeleOncology allows Veterans to receive world-class oncology care and services, regardless of where they live.

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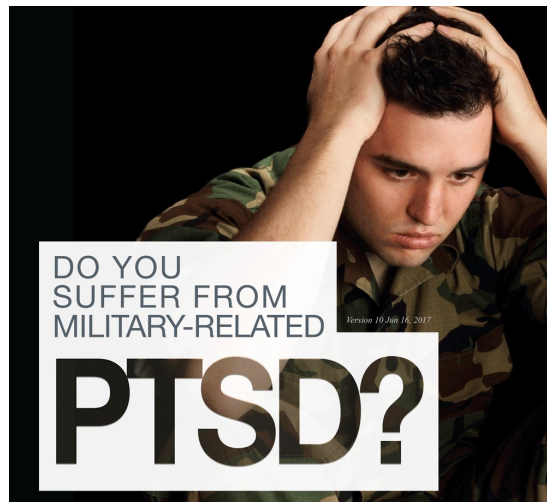




## **Aim(ing) for the Moonshot: Cancer Survivorship and Screening**

Aiming for the Moonshot: If you are diagnosed with cancer, Choose VA for your cancer care and survivorship.

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**Veterans Crisis Line:  
1-800-273-8255 & Press 1  
Ntl Call Center for Homeless Vets  
1-877-424-3838**



## **Live Whole Health Episode 126: Introduction to Qigong**

Qigong uses exercises to optimize energy within the body, mind and spirit, with the goal of improving and maintaining health and well-being.

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## **AARP launches free online hub to help Veterans fight fraud**

In response to the growing number of online fraud reports against the military community, AARP recently launched its Veterans Fraud Center, a new education and resource hub to help protect Veterans, service members and their families. The data Just last year, an AARP survey found that one in three active-duty military members and Veterans have [...]

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## Diffusion Academy advances promising practices for third year

VA's Diffusion of Excellence discovers and spreads innovative practices throughout VA, providing employees with knowledge and experience.

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The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced four burial updates and two new identifications for service members who have been missing and unaccounted-for from World War II.

Returning home for burial with full military honors are:

**Army Pfc. Sanford K. Bowen**, 26, of Ashland, Ohio, was assigned to Company I, 157th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division. He was reported killed in action on Jan. 20, 1945, when Company I and four other companies were engaged in battle with German forces near Reipertswiller, France. Bowen could not be recovered because of the ongoing fighting. He will be buried in Shiloh, Ohio, on July 22, 2022. [[Read about Bowen](#)].

**Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. Arthur B. Summers**, 27, of Poplar,

Montana, was assigned to Company I, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force, which landed against a stiff Japanese resistance on the small island of Betio in an attempt to secure the island. Over several days of intense fighting at Tarawa, approximately 1,000 Marines and sailors were killed and more than 2,000 were wounded, while the Japanese were virtually annihilated. Summers was reported killed on the fourth day of the battle, Nov. 23, 1943. He will be buried in East Wenatchee, Washington, on a date yet to be determined. [Read about Summers.](#)

**Army Tech. Sgt. Ross H. Thompson**, 50, of Maryville, Tennessee, was assigned to the Finance Department, U.S. Army Forces Far East, when Japanese forces invaded the Philippine Islands in December 1941. Intense fighting continued until the surrender of the Bataan peninsula in 1942. Thompson was among those captured and held at the Cabanatuan POW Camp, where he reportedly died on Dec. 10, 1942, and was buried. He will be buried in Kent, Washington, on a date yet to be determined. [Read about Thompson.](#)

**Army Staff Sgt. Casimir P. Lobacz**, 25, of Kenosha, Wisconsin, was assigned to Company E, 11th Infantry Regiment, 5th Infantry Division. On Sept. 27, 1944, Lobacz's unit was part of the ground attack on Fort Driant near Metz, France. He was reported to have been killed during the first wave of the assault and his body was unable to be recovered. He will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, on a date yet to be determined. [Read about Lobacz.](#)

**Army Pvt. Carl G. Dorsey**, 19, was assigned to Company I, 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 4, 1945, when his unit was engaged in battle with German forces near Grosshau, Germany. He was declared killed in action Dec. 5, 1945. Interment services

are pending. [Read about Dorsey.](#)

**Army Pfc. David N. Owens**, 27, was assigned to Company E, 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Nov. 22, 1944, when his unit was engaged in battle with German forces near Hürtgen, Germany. He was declared killed in action Nov. 23, 1945. Interment services are pending. [Read about Owens.](#)



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